

**MIKE JOHANNIS**  
NEBRASKA

404 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-4224  
(202) 224-4225 FAX  
(202) 224-4225 TTY

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 16, 2010

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND  
FORESTRY

BANKING, HOUSING AND  
URBAN AFFAIRS

COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND  
TRANSPORTATION

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I write in support of a request from the Nebraska Public Service Commission (NPSC) regarding federal Universal Service Fund (USF) support for certain Nebraska hospitals. As you may know, the NPSC on July 26, 2010 asked the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to "permanently grandfather" Nebraska health care facilities in Norfolk, Kearney, Grand Island, and Fremont under the applicable rules.

Based on changes made in 2005 to the definition of "rural" for purposes of the program, these facilities will fail to qualify for support through the FCC's Rural Health Care Program beginning in July of 2011. I support the NPSC request and ask that the FCC carefully consider how the Rural Health Care Program can continue to support the rural missions these facilities serve in my state.

Nebraska is an intensely rural state. This makes the statewide delivery of quality health care a significant challenge. Nebraska's Statewide Telehealth Network (Network) meets this challenge directly by connecting rural health care providers with urban hub hospitals, and the NPSC contributes significant sums to this program through the Nebraska Universal Service Fund. The facilities in Norfolk, Kearney, Grand Island, and Fremont are integral parts of the Network and through it extend their expertise and resources to serve health care needs far beyond the geography immediately surrounding them. I hope you will appreciate the roles these facilities serve in Nebraska.

Thank you for your consideration of my views on this matter. Please feel free to contact my staff at 202.224.4224 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Mike Johannis  
United States Senator

LINCOLN OFFICE  
204 FEDERAL BUILDING  
100 CENTENNIAL MALL NORTH  
LINCOLN, NE 68508  
(402) 475-1400  
FAX (402) 475-0806

OMAHA OFFICE  
6900 NICHOLAS STREET  
SUITE 325  
OMAHA, NE 68114  
(402) 788-8881  
FAX (402) 788-8165

KEARNEY OFFICE  
4111 FOURTH AVENUE  
SUITE 20  
KEARNEY, NE 68846  
(308) 236-7002  
FAX (308) 236-7473

SCOTTSDALE OFFICE  
115 RAILWAY STREET  
SUITE C102  
SCOTTSDALE, NE 68061  
(308) 825-0603  
FAX (308) 825-0206

19 NOV 2010 RCJL

*UCB*  
*USF - RHC*  
*JG*  
*1803*



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

December 13, 2010

The Honorable Mike Johanns  
United States Senate  
404 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Johanns:

Thank you for your letter supporting the Nebraska Public Service Commission petition. Your letter will be entered into the record of that proceeding.

The Commission is committed to the goal of providing the important benefits of the rural health care program to eligible health care providers. The Nebraska petition is under review and the Commission is working to conclude its review as quickly and equitably as possible.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Genachowski", is written over the printed name. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke.

Julius Genachowski